

Session IV – “The First Rule of Intelligent Tinkering Is To Save All the Parts”
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Rapid Assessment of Natural Wetland for Eastern Sarus Crane Reintroduction to Thailand

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Abstract

In Thailand, Eastern Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone sharpii*) was classified as extinct in the wild (EW) and was classified as vulnerable (VU: A2cde+3cde+4cde). Nowadays, Thailand has an opportunity to reintroduce Eastern Sarus Crane under the performance of The Zoological Park Organization of Thailand (Nakornrachasima Zoo) and ministry of natural resources and environments (Bangpra waterbird breeding station). Eastern Sarus Cranes were captive-bred using natural and insemination method. The 100th chick was born in May 2009. There will be approximately 150 captive birds in 2009 and more than 12 were paired to potentially be reintroduced. Currently, the project titled “Preparing Captive-breed Eastern Sarus Crane for Experimental Reintroduction to Thailand’s Natural Wetland” is ongoing since 2008 and will run through 2013 under The Zoological Park and the cooperation of the university (Kasetsart University and Mahasarakham University). During the first phase, 6 wetland sites (Ramsar Non-hunting area, international importance, and Wildlife Sanctuary), i.e. Boung Khong Lhong Non-hunting area (BKL), Nong Bong Kai Non-hunting area (NBK), Huai Jorakae Mak-Huai Talad Non-hunting area (HJM-HTL), Boung Boraphet (BBP), Thung Ka-Mang (TKM: Phu Keaow Wildlife Sactuary), and Bangpra reservoir (BPR), were assessed as the focus natural wetland. The rapid assessment of wetlands were conducted using the first revision set (4 Criteria, 8 indicators, and 52 verifiers). The quantitative data were gathered following Finlayson *et al.*, (2002) and questionnaire.

Three wetlands (BKL, NBK, and BPR) were investigated and data are being processed. However, after field surveys, there were some verifiers that need to be revised because they were not directly related (and/or no data available) to the Eastern Sarus Crane habitat.